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POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION

January 24, 2020

Commissioner Robert Taub, Chairman  
Commissioner Michael M. Kubayanda, Vice Chairman  
Commissioner Mark Acton  
Commissioner Ann C. Fisher  
Commissioner Ashley E. Poling  
Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue, NW  
Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268

RE: Docket No. RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare and our more than one million members and supporters, I am writing to urge you to reconsider your proposal to increase postage rates several times the rate of inflation. These increases will have a detrimental impact on the National Committee's fundraising efforts, forcing us to drastically reduce mail volume. This will have a disastrous impact on our revenue and our mission.

As a nonprofit advocacy and membership organization, we count on the Postal Service to help us communicate with our donors and receive support for our mission at the Marketing Mail rate. Our mission is to protect, promote and ensure a healthy, productive and secure retirement for current and future generations of Americans. Founded 37 years ago by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's son James Roosevelt, the National Committee has been the most aggressive defender of Social Security and Medicare programs which are vital to keeping millions of seniors out of poverty. We provide educational information to the public and to our members as well as engage both in advocacy campaigns.

The postage increases outlined in the recent proposal will have a massive impact on our mission and the people we serve. Our educational, fundraising, and advocacy programs will be reduced and our ability to serve our members and to advocate on their behalf will be severely diminished. This is due to the reduction in our ability to advocate before Congress to prevent cuts to Social Security and Medicare, to advocate for badly needed expansions of these programs, and to provide them with educational information that allows them to follow the ebb and flow of policy discussions of vital interest to them.

Direct mail has been the most important part of our work. As large-volume mailers, we mail approximately 23 million pieces annually. In the last 12 months, the National Committee spent

more than \$4.8 million on outgoing postage (primarily at the flat rate) and generated over \$1.1 million in first-class return postage. Fulfilling our mission and representing the interests of our engaged members and supporters is critically dependent on our ability to operate and communicate efficiently in a cost-effective way.

The National Committee continues to do everything we can to keep costs at a minimum and will not be able to increase our budget to offset the proposed postage increases. Any expense, such as postage, that drastically exceeds our means will result in necessary reductions in our use of mail. Such a reduction will lead to loss of revenue, limiting our reach and reducing the amount our organization can spend on critical advocacy efforts on behalf of America's seniors and their families.

I appreciate your review of these concerns and urge you to reconsider your proposal.

Very Respectfully,



Max Richtman  
President and CEO



Michael Prucker  
Chief Operation Officer



Christine Kim  
Chief Financial Officer



Deborah Johnson  
Director of Marketing